

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 095378

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INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

S E C R E T STATE 095378

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS

SUBJECT: UNSC MIDDLE EAST DEBATE: SISCO- DINITZ MAY 17

REF: STATE 94106 AND STATE 91109

SUMMARY. SISCO REVIEWED WITH AMB DINITZ HIGHLIGHTS
HIS AND DE PALMA'S CONVERSATIONS MAY 11 AND 14 WITH BRITISH
REPS. DINITZ SAID ANY UN ACTION TIPPING BALANCE 242 OR
IMPOSING NEW MECHANISM WOULD BE HARMFUL BY DIVERTING MATTERS
FROM CHANNEL ISRAEL DEEMED BEST AND ONLY WAY, ELIMINATION
FOR EGYPT OF ALL ALTERNATIVES SAVE NEGOTIATION WITH ISRAEL.
ISRAEL WILLING NEGOTIATE, EVEN INDIRECTLY, AND GIVE
ASSURANCES INTERIM AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE FINAL STAGE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 095378

OBJECTIVE WAS TO GET PAST SC DEBATE WITHOUT PERMANENT DAMAGE. ONLY IN NUANCES WERE THERE POSSIBLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN U. S. AND ISRAEL; THESE HAD TO BE " CONCRETIZED" TO MINIMIZE MISUNDERSTANDING. ISRAEL WOULD NOT HAVE ANYTHING DO WITH JARRING OF FEB 1971 INITIATIVE OR SUBSEQUENT GA RESES, OR WITH JARRING WITH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE; IT WOULD WORK WITH THE JARRING OF 242. CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WAS NON- STARTER AND ISRAEL WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE WITH IT. SISCO SAID THAT WE HAD NOT MADE YET JUDGMENTS RE EVERY NUANCE. ISRAELIS COULD BE ASSURED WE WOULD OPPOSE ANY HARMFUL UN ACTION. BUT WE DID NOT DISCOUNT ENTIRELY ARGUMENT THAT IF 242 BALANCE CAN BE PRESERVED, SETTING JARRING IN MOTION AGAIN IN SOME WAY WOULD ENABLE EGYPTIANS TO POINT

TO THIS AS POSITIVE RESULT OUT OF SC AND HELP SADAT KEEP DIPLOMATIC OPTION OPEN. SISCO ASKED THAT ISRAEL TRY AND SEE THIS AS WE LOOKED AT IT AGAINST BACKGROUND OUR INTERESTS IN AREA. SISCO URGED THAT ISRAEL NOT GET AHEAD OF US IN CONSULTATIVE PROCESS WE WILL BE BEGINNING. HE ALSO STRESSED IMPORTANCE OUR TACTICAL ALTERNATIVES NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH PRESS. END SUMMARY

1. ASSTSECRETARIES SISCO AND DE PALMA MET WITH ISRAELI AMB DINITZ A. M. MAY 17 TO DISCUSS UPCOMING SC DEBATE. ALSO PRESENT ISRAELI MINISTER IDAN, POLITICAL COUNSELOR RAVIV, DEPASTSEC ATHERTON AND COUNTRY DIRECTORS STERNER AND STACKHOUSE.

2. SISCO SAID HE WANTED FIRST TO GIVE DINITZ A FILL- IN ON HIS TALKS WITH UK REPS (REFTELS), AND THEN EXAMINE PROSPECTS FOR UPCOMING DEBATE. BRITISH HAD SAID THEY WANTED TO BE IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH US; THEY HAD ALSO SAID IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE BRING IN FRENCH AT SOME STAGE. WE HAD SAID WE HOPED TO COOPERATE WITH BRITISH TO ACHIEVE CONSTRUCTIVE RESULT. IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE TO CONSULT WITH FRENCH LATER ON. WE WOULD SAY FRANKLY, HOWEVER, WE WERE NOT OPTIMISTIC IN LIGHT OF OUR EXPERIENCE IN LAST ROUND (BEIRUT RAID SC DEBATE). BRITISH HAD COME TO US WITH COMPENDIUM OF POSSIBILITIES.

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